

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 SSC-01 OPR-02 RSR-01 /078 W

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O R 292349Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5345

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3878

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI PINT MILI ELAB

SUBJ: NEW CABINET

1. CABINET INSTALLED AUG 28 (SANTIAGO 3853) REPRESENTS NO NEW DEPARTURE FOR ALLENDE GOVT NOR DOES IT CHANGE BASIC POLITICAL SITUATION. LIKE ITS SHORTLIVED PREDECESSOR (SANTIAGO 3549), THIS CABINET PLEASES NO ONE -- THE MILITARY, THE UP, THE OPPOSITION, OR THE RIGHT-WING AND LEFT-WING POLITICAL FRINGES. IT IS AN AD HOC, PATCHWORK ARRANGEMENT WHICH CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO RESOLVE CHILE'S MULTIPLE PROBLEMS. AS A "GUARANTOR" OF SOCIAL PEACE AND OF A SETTLEMENT OF THE VARIOUS GUILD STRIKES, ITS POTENTIAL IS NOT IMPRESSIVE, INDEED LESS THAN THAT OF PREDECESSOR WHICH HAD THREE CINCS AS MEMBERS. BASIC QUESTION OF WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, MILITARY WILLNWLAY IN THIS GOVT. AND WHAT REAL POWERS THEY WILL EXERCISE REMAIN UNRESOLVED; THIS DECISION WILL BE MADE ELSEWHERE. BASIC FEARS PERSIST--FROM THE UP CAMP THAT ANY ROLE FOR THE MILITARY INEVITABLY WILL ACT AS A BRAKE ON UP ASPIRATIONS AND OPERATIONS, AND FROM THE OPPOSITION SIDE THAT MILITARY IS BEING USED BY ALLENDE AS WINDOWDRESSING TO BUTTRESS HIS CLAIM THAT ARMED FORCES SUPPORT HIM.

2. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE THREE MILITARY MINISTERS -- MAGLIOCCHETTI, GONZALEZ, AND ARELLANO--ARE STRONG LEADERS IN
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THEIR OWN RIGHT WHO COMMAND THE INTENSE LOYALTY AND AFFECTION OF

THEIR PEERS. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THEY BECOME SERIOUS LIABILITIES TO THEIR SERVICES OR TO ALLENDE AS AN OUTGROWTH OF THEIR MINISTERIAL ROLES, THEY CAN BE DISCARDED WITHOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS OF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEAPRTURE OF GEN. RUIZ (SANTIAGO 3743). NOR IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THE MILITARY HAS EXTRACTED IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS FROM ALLENDE ALONG THE LINES OF THEIR JULY 3 MEMORANDUM IN RETURN FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CABINET. THE IMPORTANT LOCUS OF ACTIVITY AT THE MOMENT IS THE INTERNAL SOUL-SEARCHING PROCESS WHICH ALL THREE SERVICES ARE GOING THROUGH, OF WHICH BEST EXAMPLE IS MEETING OF ARMY BOARD OF GENERALS WHICH ENDED TODAY.

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